



THE EASTERN IOWA

DX'ER

FALL 1992

OFFICERS:

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W0IZ, DALE REPP

CLUSTER SYSOP: WB0ZRL, TOM VAVRA

EIDXA RPTR. 145.190 W0MJN
DX CLUSTER 144.910 WB0ZRL
223.420

NET FREQ. 3.780 MHZ WINTER
145.190 SUMMER

.....PREZ'S CORNER.....

Hello EIDXA...As I take pen-in-hand to say a few lines, it is perfect wx to put up antenna's. I bet all the fair weather antennas have problems before winter is over. You know Murphy's Law...The antennas performance is inversely proportional to the temperature when installed". I have just about completed the pro-57z project.

From the reports on the Sunday eve net it appears there are some very nice QSL's still coming thru, ie, VP8SSI, 9D0RR, F00C and others.

At least from down here in the Southland, 40, 80 and 160 have been turning in a few new band countrys without a contest. Remember...we're all going to put in some amount of time for a club aggregate score. Sometimes a hundred or two Q's don't seem like much, but when you add all of our club's score it can really make us stand tall.

Finally, I would like to pass on a real big thank you to all who have helped me while serving as President

I'm sure I speak for Chuck and Gary too. Our past officers, cluster sysop and advisors have been and will continue to make EIDXA one of the best ham clubs going. Again, It has been an honor to serve such a fine organization. I will be looking forward to seeing you all the 30th of October.

'til then.....cu in the pileups
73, K0JGH, Glen



Program: VP8SSI video
WHEN: OCTOBER 30 1992
WHERE: KIRKWOOD COLLEGE
TIME: 7:30 FRIDAY EVE
ROOM: SAME AS LAST TIME ???

EIDXA membership

call	name	address	town	st	zip	phonehome	phoneworl
NJ2A	Nelson Moyer	28 Ealing Dr.	Iowa City,	Ia	52246	319-351-8775	319-335-4500
K0AL	Al Culbert	728 Norman Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402		
W00AWL	Terry Cellman	703 Lincoln St.	Ainsworth,	Ia	52201	319-657-3681	319-648-2891
W00B	Larry J. Newby	P.O. Box 185	West Burlington,	Ia	52655	319-752-8700	319-754-4692
K20C	Jim Schnaack	1119 Rainbow Dr.	Waterloo,	Ia	50701	319-233-7185	
AA0CS	Jeff Barker	Box 325	Toledo,	Ia	52342		
K00CNR	Mary Dennis	402 E. Vine	Toledo,	Ia	52342	515-484-4837	515-404-5080
WV0D	Terry Perkins	3119 Falcon Dr NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402	319-393-5503	319-395-5610
N02GE	Tom Irwin	1023 Kirkwood Ave.	Iowa City	IA	52240		
W0EJ	Wade Walstrom	7431 Macon Drive NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402	319-393-8982	
N0EL	Joe Rathkiewicz	2622 Avalon Dr.	Bettendorf	IA	52722		
W02FYG	Rich Hadley	115 Scenic Dr.	Vinton	Ia	52349		
K0GT	Gary Toomsen	2730 Tower Dr.	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52401	319-395-9329	
K0GVB	Gary Ernst	RR 2	West Branch,	Ia	52358	319-643-2287	
W0GKK	Frank Appie	1935 16th St.	Marion	IA	52302	319-377-5563	319-395-1924
KF0H	Jim Harvey	519 N. Main St.	Goldfield,	Ia	50542	515-825-3323	
N00H	Jack Muckler	2094 Eastern Blvd. SE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52403	319-362-3462	
W00I	Terry Parker	535 Sierra Dr	Burlington,	Ia	52601	319-753-1557	319-753-6591
N01CI	Grant Kesselring	RR #7 Box 160	Ottumwa,	Ia	52501	515-934-5320	
K01IR	Clark Pantel	1610 Hershey Ave.	Muscatine,	Ia	52761	319-263-9150	319-263-6141
K01NR	Tom Taylor	RR 1	Shell Rock,	Ia	50670	319-885-4400	319-236-1500
W01Z	Cale Rapp	1610 Texas Ave. NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402	319-393-6724	
N0JCM	John Mayer	500 37th Ave N	Clinton,	Ia	52732	319-243-7414	319-244-2389
K0JGH	Glen Kesselring	RR #7 Box 160	Ottumwa,	Ia	52501	515-934-5320	
N0JL	Ron Borkgren	1106 E. 2nd St.	Anamosa	Ia	52205	319-462-4113	
AB0M	Vern Lang	110 E. 2nd St.	Muscatine,	Ia	52761	319-263-2697	319-263-5041
W0CK	Tom Gordon	6904 Brentwood Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402	319-373-0757	319-851-7219
W0MGN	Joe Finkstein	2210 Empire St.	Marion.	Ia	52302	319-377-6573	319-395-2294
NK0N	Orville Duecker	226 Southcrest	Waterloo,	Ia	50702	319-296-2390	319-233-3569
W0NB	Jim Livengood	R.R. 1, Ferre's Lane	Burlington,	Ia	52601	319-752-9310	319-752-2701
W4NIM	Bob Hill	2037 SW 61st Ave	Miami	FL	33155		
NC00	Tom Hise	P.O. Box 104	Shellsburg,	Ia	52332	319-476-7706	
N90K	Al Broedel	2712 38th St.	Rock Island	Il	61201		
NU0P	Steve White	5820 Sanden Rd. NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52401	319-393-4547	319-395-4641
W0PFF	George Carsner	411 Terrace Rd.	Iowa City,	Ia	52245	319-338-1601	319-338-7371
K00Q	Jeff Russell	2125 Linmar Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402	319-363-4139	319-395-4664
W00Q	Rich Bingham	707 12th Ave.	Coralville	IA	52241	319-351-4098	319-335-8648
KK0R	Bob Tillman	P.O. Box 1	Eldora,	Ia	50627		
N4RR	Roger Hoffman	17215 Timber Drive	Sterling,	Il	61081	815-625-6647	
K00RT	Brad Farrell	1401 Greenwood Dr	Ottumwa,	Ia	52501	515-684-7768	515-682-4535
K0RW	John Lenahan	923 N. 9th St.	Burlington,	Ia	52601	319-753-6883	319-752-2731
N0SM	Steve Miller	Route 6 Box 180	Ottumwa,	Ia	52501	515-684-4753	
W0SML	Doug Byal	4431 Deer View Rd. NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402	319-393-2974	319-395-4283
W0SR	Jim Spencer	3712 Tanager Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402	319-393-7353	319-395-2305
KK0U	Paul Feddersen	703 Eclipse Lane	Clinton,	Ia	52732	319-242-9910	319-242-6214
W00U	George Gruenther	1106 S. Leebrick	Burlington,	Ia	52601	319-753-1461	319-753-6253
W00U	Scott Augsburg	310 S. Wilson St.	Mt. Pleasant	IA	52641	319-986-5056	
W0UZ	John Nelson	3109 Terry Dr. SE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52403	319-365-4432	
NY0V	Tom Vinson	10211 Hall Road NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402	319-393-8087	319-395-2154
K0VM	Al Groff	1446 Council St. NE	Cedar Rapids,	Ia	52402	319-393-8134	319-395-4666
K0VZR	Tom White	2027 Carter Ave	Jesup,	Ia	50648	319-827-6738	319-334-7166
W0WP	Tom Lindgren	9786 Blairs Ferry Rd.	Cedar Rapids	Ia	52401	319-395-0948	319-395-1953
KE0Y	Tom Kramer	905 LeRoy	Muscatine,	Ia	52761	319-264-3259	
KF0Z	Jan Clute	320 College Blvd.	Mount Vernon,	Ia	52314	319-895-6635	319-927-2143
W00ZKE	Chuck Dennis	400 E. Vine	Toledo,	Ia	52342	515-484-4837	
W00ZRL	Tom Vavra	682 Palisades Access Rd.	Ely,	Ia	52227	319-848-7604	

CUSHCRAFT 11 ELE MODIFICATION

About 11 years ago I acquired a conversion scheme to make your Cushcraft 11 element 2m beam much better. The conversion involves the removal of 3 director elements, trimming one director and respacing the remaining directors. It produces a much better radiation pattern with greater front-to-back & front-to-side ratios, fewer & smaller side lobes and much improved forward gain.

I'm not sure where I got the conversion from so I can't give the original author credit, but I've done it to several beams over the years and can attest that it works very well. I've also provided the overall dimensions of the beam so you could build one from scratch from aluminum tubing stock.

I'm not sure why Cushcraft hasn't figured this out, but it's probably because 11 element beams are easier to market than 1 element beams. We all know that more elements must mean more gain. HI HI

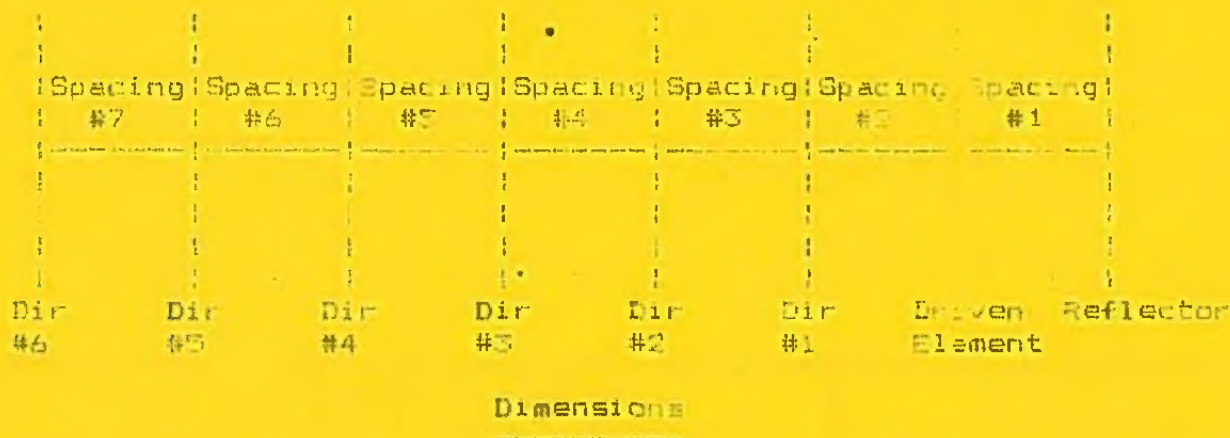
I've attached the conversion instructions to this message. I hope it works well for you.

73, Mark, WB9QZB @ N3ATA
Chicago, IL

CUSHCRAFT 11 ELEMENT 2M BEAM CONVERSION by WB9QZB

To do this conversion you need to remove 3 directors and trim one director. The remaining 6 directors then must be respaced.

The directors with the lengths of 35 7/8", 35 5/8", & 35 3/8" should be removed. The 35 1/8" director should be trimmed the same amount on each side to a overall length of 34 3/4". The remaining directors then should be respaced using the drawing and dimensions below.



Reflector = 41"
Driven Element = 38 - 38.5"
Director #1 = 36"
Director #2 = 35 3/4"
Director #3 = 35 1/2"
Director #4 = 35 1/4"
Director #5 = 35"
Director #6 = 34 3/4"

Spacing #1 = 14"
Spacing #2 = 11 1/2"
Spacing #3 = 16 1/2"
Spacing #4 = 23"
Spacing #5 = 23 1/8"
Spacing #6 = 23 1/8"
Spacing #7 = 30"

In cases of doubt about which elements are which refer to the original Cushcraft assembly instructions.

Are you worried about wind and ice loading on that monster (or not so monster) beam you are planning? Are you tearing up rotators with your yagis? Are you planning to design your next pile-up buster? If the answer to any of these questions is yes (or even maybe), I suggest you get your hands on a new ARRL book by W6QHS titled Physical Design of Yagi Antennas.

The book is very well written and leads the novice and the engineer through the topics of wind modeling, effects of wind and ice, strengths of structures and materials, and the element design and placement on the boom. There is lots of math, but the author became enamored with spreadsheets so he summarizes all the formulas for direct entry into your favorite spreadsheet.

The first information I found that was put to immediate use was a table of Electrolytic Potential of Metals. It can be used to determine the corrosion of dissimilar metals when physically joined. What a surprise to find that copper SHOULD NOT be joined directly to aluminum or zinc (galvanized tower legs).

An interesting topic is Boom Moment about the Mast. This has to do with the "balance" of the antenna around the mast. Explained and illustrated is a technique for adding a torque compensator made from common PVC components. Examples of boom and element guy support are given. A simple method to insure drilling holes exactly through the center of a tube is shown. Numerous examples of boom-to-mast and element-to-boom mounting hardware are shown and discussed.

A very clever mast torsion spring is shown. This relieves much of the shock to the rotator. It is built around a "rubber donut" called a "flex-disc" that isolates the drive shaft from the transmission of smaller BMW automobiles. Spending \$25 at a foreign-car parts store gets you a beefy rubber donut capable of all the torque expected in an antenna setup. The donut has eight steel tubes cast in it to take four bolts from each direction.

There are lots of examples along the way and the final chapter is nothing but complete "beef-up" info for several common antennas. The Cushcraft 40-2CD, Hy-Gain TH5, Hy-Gain TH7, Hy-Gain 105BA, Hy-Gain 155BA, Hy-Gain 204BA, and Hy-Gain 205BA. Several hefty homebrew monobanders are also included.

At \$20 the book is on the expensive side. However, it contains a wealth of valuable information and should be considered as an addition to your technical library.

de WB8ZRL

TREASURER REPORT OCTOBER 1992

Balance Last Statement \$643.85
Expenses \$62.00 (EIDXA T-Shirts)
Current Balance \$581.85
Submitted de K0GBV Sec/Tres EIDXA

QSLing Notes

- Y45MM QSLs are largely out. If you have not yet received yours, try again right away to Todor Dikov, Box 321, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria. UT4UX will visit the POBox later this month, for the last time this year. (DXPress)
- YP8SSI QSL cards finally arrived from the printers in Japan, on Sept. 12. Joanie KA6V says cards will start going into the mail immediately.
- YX0AI Aves Island cards finally arrived from the printer, by sea mail! The Venezuelan DX Club expects to get cards out in a month or two.

DX Advisory Committee Votes

The DXAC has voted 15 to 1 to add Croatia 9A and Slovenia S5 to the DXCC Countries list, effective June 26, 1991. The DXAC voted 13 to 3 to add Bosnia-Herzegovina YU4 to the DXCC list, effective Oct. 15, 1991. And it voted 12 to 4 to add Macedonia YU5 to the DXCC list, effective Sept. 8, 1991. YU1, YU6, and YU7 remain the old Yugoslavian DXCC country. This is only the first step in the process. The Awards Committee at ARRL Hq. must decide to accept the DXAC recommendation to add the four new countries, and then establish a timetable for the acceptance of QSL cards. Do not send QSL cards from these new DXCC countries to the ARRL until directed!

The DXAC also voted not to continue to investigate: 1) changes in the status of the former USSR countries; 2) relaxing Rule 8 for docked or anchored vessels; 3) the Master DXer program; and 4) DXCC country status for

Ten Years Ago

SM0AGD, Erik, was on his Trans-Pacific DX-pedition. He operated as ZK1AF, 3D2DX, C21NI, T30CB, T2AGD, FN0AG, SW1EC, SM0AGD/KH8, ZM7AG, T31AE, SM0AGD/KH1, and T32AJ.

T19VVR and T15FAG were active from Cocos Island. T19VVR QSLs weren't accepted (he was demanding donations.)

DN4BC/ST4 passed out lots of zone T4 CW contacts.

Herik was active as PH0FLD and even got the QSLs out in reasonable time.

FR0GBL7g was worked one afternoon on 15 cw long path.

TP0WD was in demand from Crozet. He was not a cw operator, but worked hard to give out lots of contacts. St. Peter & St. Paul Rocks saw lots of activity from PY0SP, PY0SJ, PY0ZSA, PY0ZSB, and PY0ZSC at the end of September.

There were no SP activity as the result of the unrest in Poland.

3D2RW and VR6RW were signed by Ron, ZL1AM0.

The plans for TWO DX-peditions to Heard Island were still on target for early 1983 operations. The ARRL National Convention was held in Cedar Rapids on July 23-25.

The top-ten needed survey from THE DX BULLETIN were as follows: BY, VK/Heard, VU/Laccadives, ZA, XU, 70, 3Y/Bouvet, VU7/Andamans, XZ, and CE0X. (No-one believed then that BY and ZA would be as common as they are now.) DE WBBZRL



Calibrating DXers

by Ron, NG6X

During the cocktail party at this year's Visalia Convention, Ted, W6BJH and my XYL Nancy were passing the time by people-watching. Ted commented that he could tell the country-count of a DXer at a glance. His method? He said the key was how low the crotch in their pants hung.

Skeptical, Nancy suggested testing the hypothesis on DXers nearby. So they asked the country-count of some dapper, well-tailored hams in the room. Their totals were all in the 125 to 175 range. And sure enough, when they asked those with slightly baggy pants, the counts were around 250. Then they spotted one fellow whose pants-crotch hung down to his knees. He admitted being on the Honor Roll member, just as the theory predicts.

Just when the game began to wear thin, an elderly man staggered in. He not only had baggy pants, but a pocket protector full of pencils and pens, and a baseball hat with a two-letter call in day-glow red block letters. Ted couldn't resist. He walked over and asked, "Excuse me sir. Are you on the honor roll?"

"No," the man said, "I came here for the FOC dinner!"

Related Phenomena

by Ted, W6BJH

I believe Hugh Cassidy first mentioned the saggy-pants theory in the *West Coast DX Bulletin*—back in the 70's. But at Visalia this year, Nancy and I also noticed some variations—some whose saggy pants didn't reflect their modest country counts. We suspect they were just putting on airs.

We noticed some wealthy and otherwise dapper DXers who could easily afford custom tailoring, but had saggy pants anyway. They faced a terrible dilemma: be well-tailored and project a neophyte image, or stay baggy and show their accomplishments. You can well imagine the debate going on in their heads; "baggy, dapper, baggy, dapper ...!"

It's a no-win situation, folks, but you gotta decide; and you just can't have it both ways.

PacketCluster Notes de WBBZRL

There has been a major (but hopefully transparent) change to the cluster software. The interface software between the cluster program and the TNC hardware has given us problems forever (and stands little chance of ever getting fixed) so when I had the opportunity I replaced it with a better piece of software. Specifically, the new software is version 4.05b of the GBBPO switch. It was originally intended to act like a NetRom or KA-Node switch, but has grown in acceptance by the PacketCluster operators. Anyway, the switch directly supports an application (normally a BBS) which is the cluster. The cluster has the call WBBZRL with an alias of EIADX. Nearly all users connect to WBBZRL, but connecting to the alias works OK too, especially when coming in through the NetRom system. In addition, the switch acts as a NetRom node (like CID220, IARVSD, WAT, ANAM, etc) with the call WBBZRL-2 and alias IAELY. The major advantage here is that you can connect into the NetRom network while staying on 144.910 and connected to the cluster. For local users that check WAQRJT BBS, it can be accessed through the switch, while staying connected to the cluster on a second stream. Another application is discussed below.

Several clusters in Illinois have purchased HAMBASE or some other online database of names and addresses (like the CallBook) but it includes Canada and some other random countries. It is a bit expensive and I have never seriously considered buying one. There is a local way to get the information however. Barry, WAQRJT, has one on his GBBPO switch, and it can be accessed two ways. The first is a 'batch' mode that involves sending a 'message' to his BBS and then waiting several hours for a reply. The method is like this: 1) Send a msg to REQQTH; 2) Enter the calls you want addresses for as the SUBJECT of the message, separated by a single space, and ended by 'WBBZRL' to tell RJT where to send the answer. (Note: some RJT users have set up the BBS to say that their home BBS is WBBZRL, so the messages get forwarded to the cluster automatically.) 3) The text of the message is empty so just cntl-Z or /EXIT when it asks for text. An Example:

```
S REQQTH
KA6V VE3XO @WBBZRL
<cntl-Z>
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In a few hours, more or less, a message comes back to you from RJT and it contains the address(es).

A second method is much faster, but requires you to connect to IACIDS (which is RJT's GBBPO switch). Using a second stream if necessary, connect to IAELY, CID220, WAT, or whatever is close to you. Then C IACIDS to connect you to RJT's switch. (Note that IACIDS is on 145.05 and can be accessed directly.) If you can't seem to connect to IACIDS, do a NODE command and make sure IACIDS is there. When you connect to IACIDS, you will only get a connect message. Entering a '?' will get you a command list. (Entering 'BBS' at this point will get you into CIDBBS.) Entering 'CDROM' will get you a prompt for Callsign, B, ?. The ? repeats the prompt, the B is a 'bye' and a callsign will result in an address and another prompt. Keep entering calls until you are done, then 'B'. This will disconnect you from the network.

The sponsors of the WAQRJT BBS have put up some real money to obtain the CDROM and the CDROM player. A donation by those using the service would be appreciated.

As reported during the last meeting, we are still working to get a 220 link to the Quad Cities. The link was there for a few weeks, but Richard, G3WJN, lost the use of his loaner radio (it is N4RR's backup radio) and has since decided to move his tower to get some more height from it. That is still in progress as I write this (30 July). The link looks like it should be solid once we get the antennas in place and aimed right. A special thanks to the two members who contributed toward the purchase of the beam and splitter.

The following article, or opinion, was taken from the August 1, 1992, issue of the "W5YI REPORT". Since it's topic is the realm of Dx'ers and Dx'ing, we have included it in this issue. We hope you find it thought provoking.

DXCC BACKLOG - TIME TO STOP THE BLEEDING?

It's baaaaack! The DXCC backlog, that is, which raises several serious questions. DX Century Club is an award for contacting 100 or more foreign countries. Is this ARRL-sponsored program spiraling out of control like a Congressionally mandated welfare entitlement program? Should the DXCC program be down-sized because of its limited appeal to a special-interest group? Indeed, is the general membership of the League (i.e. the non-DX'ing "silent majority") being ill-served if not shortchanged by hemorrhaging DXCC expenditures?

With the processing backlog one again growing in geometric proportions, it remains to be seen whether the Board of Directors and top management at ARRL HQ will be courageous enough to deal with the problem without simply throwing more money at it or scapegoating staff personnel.

Reportedly, Executive Vice President Sumner, K1ZZ, received a directive from the Board at the recent July Director's meeting to "fix it". The previous effort to "fix" DXCC culminated in the discharge of two senior HQ staff members but only a temporary lull in the backlog itself. Will more heads roll at HQ?

To be sure, the processing backlog has had historical roots, and often parallels the ups and downs of the sunspot cycle. A major retolling of the DXCC program occurred in 1988 near the peak of sunspot cycle 22. Like many of the entitlement programs that in practice have become counterproductive (if not destructive) and nightmarishly costly, DXCC was undoubtedly expanded with the best of intentions (that is, to please as many DX aficionados as possible).

A January 1988 Board Motion -- prompted by the DX Advisory Committee report -- saw the League significantly expanded the already existing program by authorizing new 80, 40 and 10-meter single band awards and making all DXCCs fully endorsable, all this without a careful consideration of the further burgeoning spending that would result.

The 10-meter award, as adopted, epitomizes the problem and is particularly instructive. The administratively manageable staff recommendation would have required all 10-meter DXCC QSOs to be made on or after March 29, 1987, the implementation date of Novice Enhancement. This would give newcomers and DX veterans a level playing field and provide a great opportunity for the League to welcome Novices to phone operation. This would have also served to silence the critics that have argued that DXCC is designed for calcified oldtimers.

Unfortunately, as if caving in to a political action committee, the Board did not have the will to say "no" to the myopic DX Advisory Committee. So the directors overrode the staff recommendation, making 10-meter DXCC (as well as the new 80 and 40-meter DXCC) retroactive to November 15, 1945. Those who had more shoeboxes full of vintage QSLs were able to leap to the head of the class, and those bundles quickly found their way to ARRL HQ. A backlog situation started practically overnight, and expenditures for labor-intensive QSL-card processing skyrocketed.

In the name of making DXCC rules politically palatable to these vested interests, the Board failed to address or verify long-term funding

requirements for this expanded program. In effect, they created a monster for which they have refused to take responsibility. There are now 12 separate DXCC awards, all incrementally endorsable after the minimum 100 countries, plus the DXCC Honor Roll.

Over the years, ad hoc weekend "card parties" have been held to address temporary DXCC-processing backlog situations. Subsequent to the drastic growth of these DXCC entitlements, League management elevated the card-party concept to new heights. When the processing backlog of both new and endorsed awards reached unacceptable proportions in late 1990, top management responded to pressure from the Board by demoting and then later terminating Communications Manager John Lindholm, W1XX, (DXCC Manager Don Search, W3AZD, would meet a similar fate in March 1992) and then dragooning every available body (ham and non-ham alike) from other departments at HQ to assist in the QSL-card checking and DXCC-application processing effort during regular business hours.

Although the League's mission of preserving and promoting the Amateur Radio Service goes well beyond checking QSL cards, appropriately 50% of the over 100-employee HQ work force were engaged in DXCC processing at one time or another in 1991! DXCC had been budgeted for \$100,000 per annum, but the real costs may be double or triple that number in view of this massive deployment of personnel.

The July 25, 1991, issue of the ARRL Letter reported that the DXCC backlog was "essentially a thing of the past" and that full computerization of the DXCC awards program would go into effect October 1, 1991. But some DXCC observers question whether the backlog was ever eliminated in 1991.

Be that as it may, the July 10, 1992, issue of THE DX BULLETIN, published by Chod Harris, VP2ML, reported that DXCC processing had fallen far behind again. Presumably based on figures provided by HQ, Harris wrote that as of June 26, 1992, the DXCC desk was processing applications received on February 6, 1992, and were backlogged as far back as December 30, 1991, in returning QSL cards to applicants and sending out endorsement stickers. Also according to Harris, the DXCC desk had 3718 pending applications with over 200,000 cards to check and enter into the DXCC data base.

Clearly, the computerization of DXCC has not been the panacea as originally trumpeted. According to sources, Sumner reported to the Board that the backlog's reemergence was caused by the original paper records (many if not most of which are several decades old) being faulty. Traditionally, though, great care had been given to keeping the individual DXCC paper records accurate and precise each time the DXCC member submitted an endorsement. The actual problem may be just the opposite, i.e. the labor-intensive computer record key stroking of existing DXCC records.

Supposedly, when a DXCC member submits an endorsement application, his entire record to date is entered in the League's mainframe computer ("backfiling"). This backfilling puts a horrendous, if not unfair, amount of work on the shoulders of permanent DXCC staff. To be sure, DXCC can be very esoteric and intricate, what with new and deleted countries, permissible (and non-permissible) DXpeditions, similar prefixes... and such.

For a brief time, the League permitted individual members to keyboard their own DXCC record on a floppy disk for submission to HQ. This way abruptly terminated, however, evidently because the members were making too many errors.

If DXers in the field were making too many errors, how can a non-licensed secretary or a clerk at the HQ level be reasonably expected to maintain the integrity of the process? Sources tell us many computerized records are a shambles as a result of data entry errors (including incorrect prefixes, deleted country miscues, countries

miscredited, number of endorsements not adding up correctly, etc.), by HQ support personnel understandably unfamiliar with ham radio generally and DXCC particularly. (Readers who have received printouts of their DXCC records fraught with errors are urged to share such war stories with the W5YI Report.)

The problem, then, seems not to be the original paper records but in the transfer of information from paper to computer. Attempted correction of inaccuracies only compounds the backlog problem which gets worse and worse and requires more staff and money to unsnarl. And perhaps more career-killing scapegoating.

The Board and top ARRL management continue to treat the symptom of the problem by an unfocused throwing of money and manpower at DXCC, especially in recent years, rather than a comprehensive review of the program itself. Is the average League member, who does not participate in DXCC, getting his/her money's worth? Indeed the general member of the League may be getting hoodwinked by having so much of his dues allocated to the DXCC program way out of proportion to the number of active DXers within the League membership.

It appears that the League is offering too much program to too few members. DXCC observers say the solution is to downsize. The Board needs to have the boldness to reduce the program to a manageable level which would probably mean a general, mixed-mode DXCC award only, with a sun-setting of single-band and single-mode awards.

It's uncertain whether the ARRL Board could stand up to a vocal special-interest group and implement a desperately needed cutback in excessive DXCC benefits--just as the U.S. Congress needs to overcome similar pressure from special interests and address the huge federal budget deficit. Like Congress, however, the League's Board has often been tentative in addressing controversial issues directly, preferring to politicize, procrastinate and point fingers. [Sorry if I'm overly controversial on this matter. Comments are welcome. Fred/W5YI; Mixed No. 16653 & CW Only No. 220.]

DE LARRY, WBØB

CLINTON BLAMES DECLINE IN SUNSPOT NUMBERS ON PRESIDENT!

In a recent press conference at the ARRL headquarters in Newington, CT., Democratic Presidential nominee, Gov. Bill Clinton, blamed the obvious decline in sunspots and the resulting deterioration of the high bands on the poor management techniques of the President and lack of concern for the poor hams of America.

Clinton pledged to more equally distribute the sunspots between all American hams and therefore improve the quality of life for DXers.

President Bush responded to the charges by claiming that the Democratic Congress and Hillary Clinton were to blame for the poor high band propagation of recent months.

A radical extremists group called "Save Our Low Bands" claimed that neither candidate was in touch with the environmental issues involved and should just let Mother Nature follow its own natural cyclic patterns. Also, the group pledged to stage major protests in Washington, D.C. prior to the election in November. Several KCDXC members are charter members of this organization.

1B1NCC - Pirate?

A station signing 1B1NCC was active in late June and early July. The station said it was the club station of the Northern Cyprus Amateur Radio Society, and was licensed by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. While DXers scrambled for their DXCC countries lists, several Greek and 5B Cyprus stations denounced the operation on the air, claimed it was an illegal, pirate operation, and should not be worked. Even the Greek Ministry of Telecommunications got in the act, officially declaring 1B1NCC a pirate, unauthorized operation. Greek and 5B Cypriot stations tried to jam 1B1NCC.

The complete story of the antagonism between the Greek and Turkish communities on Cyprus is too lengthy for this report (see the DX column in the November issue of CQ) for more details.) In short, an invasion of Cyprus by Turkish troops in 1974 has led to a de facto division of the island of Cyprus into two parts. The southern two thirds remains under the control of the internationally recognized Cyprus government. However, the northern third of the island has been under Turkish control for nearly 20 years. The only country that has recognized the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is Turkey, whose troops in Cyprus have prevented re-unification of the island.

Since officially (if not in practice) the entire island is under the jurisdiction of the legitimate Cyprus government, the 1B1NCC operation is technically illegal. Contacts with 1B1NCC won't count for DXCC. Nor is the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus likely to become a new DXCC country. Dozens of United Nations resolutions have condemned the illegal invasion and occupation. Without some recognition by some neutral countries, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus will remain a non-country. [While there is one DXCC entity that lacks international recognition, it maintains its DXCC status by virtue of history: Taiwan.]

Monstrous

HAPPY Kooky COOky
Spooky Halloween



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